VITA’s Annual “Crustacean Sensation” Banquet held on May 3, 1998 at Vermilionville to honor students and tutors was a huge success. Each year the crowd grows larger and larger. This year nearly 300 tutors, students and guests dined on crawfish etouffee and enjoyed the rustic setting of the Vermilionville pavillion. The anticipated event provides a chance to see the impact of the program on the lives of students, tutors, and the community.

The 1998 banquet was dedicated to the memory of Donna Groth Delhomme, VITA’s first Executive Director. Her efforts as an educator and administrator laid the foundation for the continued success of the VITA literacy program. She had a creative approach to every challenge and extended herself and VITA to greater limits. The Donna Groth Delhomme Memorial Award was presented for the first time at the banquet. A permanent plaque is on display in the VITA office with a name plate added each time a recipient is selected for this special award.

1998 VITA AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Donna Groth Delhomme Memorial Award:
Edward Gale
Asbury Methodist Church

John J. Maddux Award:
Judy Vesper

Outstanding Tutor:
Louis Tolliver

Outstanding Student:
Lillie Thomas, Linda Ji, Bradley Calais, Yola Arceneaux, Dalton Dean

Top 5 Students:

Top 5 Tutors:
Joseph Harris and Emily Guidry

Martin Award:
Mary Lee Bruno

Think Like A Winner:

VITA GRADUATES

Earlene Benoit
Cassandra Phillips
Christy Russum
Louis Tolliver

Bradley Calais
Sharlene Prejean
Harold Sonnier
Paula West

Darren Morris
Doris Rubin
Lillie Thomas

VITA welcomes new tutors:
Erin Beyer
Wilma Bowles
Jean Breaux
Kathy Brewer
Essic Briley
Glynis Deroche
Elizabeth Gardiner
Jenny Guidry
Angela Jones
Darrel Landry
Elizabeth Massey
Sharon Mateese
David Reed
Kitty Reed
Dorothy Brady
Terri Foret
Dan Marshall
Willie Mae Milton
Ann Breaux
Betty Haynes
Hazel Richard
Lita Tyrrell
Johnna Domingue
Pearl Hutchinson
Dawn Stelly
Carol Stelly
Joyce Wagstaff
Judy Johnson
Eleanor Thomas
Vic Hummert
MarieAnne Breaux
Barbara Hidalgo
Tutor Training Workshop
Thursday & Saturday
June 11 & 13
VITA Training Room
(Tell a friend!)  
Tutor Support Meeting
Thursday, June 25
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
VITA Training Room

Upcoming Events

AGC Charity Golf Tournament
Friday, July 17
Spanish Trail Golf Club
Cade, LA

Family Reading Workshop
(For Students)
Thursdays:
July 23, 30, & Aug. 6, 13
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
VITA Training Room

Monthly reports are needed by the 10th of each month. Please report even if you did not meet.

9th Annual Lafayette AGC Charity Golf Tournament

The Lafayette District AGC (Associated General Contractors) announced that VITA has been selected to benefit from its 9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Friday, July 17, 1998 at the Spanish Trail Golf Club in Cade, LA.

To assure the success of the tournament, you can become a sponsor, participant or volunteer. The cost to sponsor a hole or green, food or drink booth is $100. A sign will be placed on the green or booth to designate sponsors. To become a participant, a $60 per player entry fee is required. Included in the fee is lunch, cart, green fees, range balls and a mulligan. Many prizes will be given, including a 1st place prize of a $600 gift certificate (per team) to the Pro Shop, two season tickets to the Swampscats soccer games, a round of golf for four at The Bluffs at St. Francisville and a prize for a hole-in-one. Volunteers are also needed to help on the course. Please call the office to sponsor, play or volunteer.

FAMILY READING WORKSHOP
(For Students)

The Family Reading Workshop is a series of fun and informative sessions designed for students who want to help their children, grandchildren, etc. The workshop facilitator teaches strategies for reading children's books while preparing students to use the same techniques with their own reading and vocabulary. Students should have some reading skills. Each participant will receive a free children's book after each class. The workshop is in four parts to be held on July 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13, 1998 at 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the VITA Training Room. Call the office if your student is interested.

Literacy Skills for the Workplace

VITA now has a computer lab thanks to a grant from Lafayette Consolidated Government. The grant money has helped VITA start a workplace literacy class. Students in this class are working on skills needed to get a job or a job promotion. Computers were purchased to be used in these classes. The workplace group meets in the VITA training room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. If you would like information on this class for your student, please call the VITA office.

The computers are also available for any student who would like to supplement his/her lesson. We have purchased several new software programs that are an excellent way to reinforce skills and learn new ones. It is a good motivator for students who may be getting bored with only bookwork. At this time there is limited space available. Please call to schedule a time on the computer. It is preferred that tutors come with students until volunteers are available. Assistance is needed for students while working on the computer. If you can help at the following times, please call the office.

Good Luck!!

STUDENT WRITING PROJECT

The first VITA booklet written by New Readers is entitled Expressions of Life and Language. It is a collection of stories written or dictated by VITA students with tutor assistance. The booklet is a great example of the success VITA students are exhibiting in the program. Many thanks to students and tutors who participated to make the booklet a reality.

If you do not already have a copy of the booklet, a limited number of copies are available at the VITA office. Once the supply is gone, VITA will sell the booklets for $2.00 each to raise money for future projects.

Submissions for the next booklet are being taken now and will continue throughout the year.

Here are some tips on including writing in your lessons.

• Don't assume that your student is not capable of writing yet. This could be the book that keeps your student motivated.

• Use some of the suggestions on writing Language Experience stories in the VITA Writer newsletter. If you don't want to use class time for your student to dictate the story to you, have your student dictate a story on a tape recorder. You can take it home and write the story to be prepared for your next lesson. This works especially with students who have lower levels of reading ability.

• Create Cloze Sentences from these stories by deleting key words from the sentences. The student must choose the missing word from five choices you supply. Words should be similar (if possible), but with only one word making sense. This will increase your student's comprehension skills. (ex: The Smith family ___ in the city. (lives, gives, kicks, basket, happy))

• Create word game activities from stories. Write a word on the board and give your student a list of other words that go with it, for example: the word "basket" with the list: game, jump, score, hoop, hit, etc.

• The class is going to create a "Teen" book of short stories (5 to 7 pages) for their peers. Each class will choose five stories to include and then the stories will be written by each student. Each student will dictate his/her story on a tape recorder. The student's story will be read back to the class and written down. This will help the student gain confidence in writing. We need the stories by June 18 for the first workshop. Summer reading takes place in July and August.

• Encourage topics for writing that interest your student. Experience stories are good for starters.

Good Luck!!

Du Bon Manger
A Collection of Alphosine "Teen" Martin's Best Recipes

Du Bon Manger represents the determined effort and dedication of VITA student "Teen" Martin, and her tutor, Melba Martin.

Books sell for $5.00. All proceeds are used for VITA programs.

Here's a sample:

"Through the years I have collected many recipes. They have come from family members, friends and even food packaging. And, of course, I have developed a few of my own too.

For a long time, I have wanted to organize the best recipes in my collection, the ones I use again and again. With the printing of this book this is finally done."

Carrot Cake

2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons soda
3 teaspoons cinnamon
3 cups grated carrots

Cream sugar, eggs and vegetable oil. Sift flour, salt, soda and cinnamon into mixture. Add grated carrots and stir. Pour into 9 X 13 inch oiled pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.

Topping For Carrot Cake

1 stick margarine
8 ounces Philadelphia Cream Cheese
1 pound powdered sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 tablespoons cream
1 cup chopped pecans

The margarine and Philadelphia Cream Cheese should be room temperature. Mix all ingredients and spread on hot cake.
As a part of VITA's family literacy program, used to encourage parental literacy while helping parents help their children, VITA has partnered with UMC (University Medical Center) to make literacy part of UMC's Well-Child Care Program. The program called ROAR (Reach Out & Read) recognizes the crucial importance of books and reading in the home.

This very successful program makes books and the encouragement of early literacy part of every day pediatric practice. Each child who goes to UMC for a well-child check up is “prescribed” a book by the physician. After the examination, the child is allowed to take the book home. These children now grow up with at least a few interesting books at home and every parent learns about the importance of looking at books with young children. Parents who need literacy help are referred to VITA for tutoring.

The ROAR Program kicked-off on March 19th at UMC with the Louisiana IceGators reading books to children. Each month clubs, agencies, etc. sponsor the program by donating books for children. Sponsors have been The Louisiana IceGators, The Daily Advertiser, Junior League of Lafayette, St. Thomas More High School, Red Lerille's and First National Bank.

Anyone interested in donating new or like new children's preschool books may bring them to the VITA office or to UMC, 2390 W. Congress and place them in the designated box in the lobby near the gift shop. Call Susan Oglesbee at 234-4600 for more information.